

Appl. No. 09/991,209

IN THE CLAIMS

The claims as currently presented and under consideration, are presented below.

1. [Currently amended]: A transgenic grass plant comprising an expression cassette comprising a promoter operably linked to a ferulic acid esterase encoding polynucleotide and a signal sequence that targets expression of the ferulic acid esterase to a plant cellular component, wherein the plant expresses a ferulic acid esterase having ferulic acid esterase activity.

2. [Currently amended]: The plant of claim 1, wherein the polynucleotide is derived obtained from *Aspergillus niger*.

3. [Previously presented]: The plant of claim 2, wherein the polynucleotide is FAE 1 from *Aspergillus niger*.

4. [Original]: The plant of claim 3, wherein the polynucleotide encodes a ferulic acid esterase with an altered glycosylation site.

5. [Original]: The plant of claim 3, wherein the polynucleotide encodes a ferulic acid esterase with a substitution so that glycosylation is altered.

6. [Original]: The plant of claim 3, wherein the polynucleotide further comprises a polynucleotide that encodes CTWPVAAA (SEQ ID NO: 93) at the 3' end.

7. [Original]: The plant of claim 3 wherein sub-optimal codons are modified to *Triticum* spp. preferred codons.

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8. [Currently amended]: The plant of claim 1, wherein the ~~introduction of the ferulic acid esterase polynucleotide~~ expression cassette is introduced into the plant is by sexual reproduction.

9. [Original]: The plant of claim 1, wherein the promoter is an inducible promoter.

10. [Original]: The plant of claim 9, wherein the promoter is a senescence promoter.

11. [Original]: The plant of claim 9, wherein the promoter is a heat shock promoter.

12. [Original]: The plant of claim 1, wherein the promoter is a constitutive promoter.

13. [Cancelled]

14. [Currently amended]: The plant of claim ~~13~~ 1, wherein the ~~polynucleotide~~ signal sequence is upstream of the 5' end of the ferulic acid esterase encoding polynucleotide.

15. [Currently amended]: The plant of claim 14, wherein the ~~polynucleotide~~ signal sequence is derived from the signal sequence of a vacuolar targeted gene.

16. - 17. [Cancelled]

18. [Currently amended]: The plant of claim 15, wherein the ~~polynucleotide~~ signal sequence is derived from the signal sequence of a vacuolar targeted senescence gene.

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19. [Previously presented]: The plant of claim 18, wherein the signal sequence is a *Lolium* See1 signal sequence.

20. -22. [Cancelled]

23. [Currently amended]: The plant of claim ~~13~~1, wherein the signal sequence is from *Aspergillus niger* ferulic acid esterase.

24. [Cancelled]

25. [Currently amended]: The plant of claim ~~13~~1, wherein the ~~polynucleotide~~ signal sequence is downstream of the 3' end of the ferulic acid esterase encoding polynucleotide.

26. [Cancelled]

27. [Currently amended]: The plant of claim 25, wherein the polynucleotide sequence is further comprises a stop codon.

28. [Currently amended]: The plant of claim 25, wherein the polynucleotide sequence is further comprises an extension of the ferulic acid esterase reading frame to provide a linker to KDEL (SEQ ID NO: 97).

29. [Currently amended]: The plant of claim 1, further comprising ~~introduction into the plant~~ a second expression cassette comprising a promoter operably linked to a xylanase encoding polynucleotide.

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30. [Original]: The plant of claim 29, wherein the xylanase encoding polynucleotide is from *Trichoderma reesei*.

31. [Original]: The plant of claim 29, wherein the first and second expression cassettes are present on separate plasmids.

32. [Currently amended]: The transgenic plant of claim 1, wherein the plant is selected from the group consisting of Festuca, Lolium, Zea and Avena.

33. [Original]: The transgenic plant of claim 32, wherein the plant is a Festuca plant.

34. - 73. [Cancelled]

74. [Currently amended]: A transgenic grass plant which expresses a ferulic acid esterase produced by a method comprising introducing into the a grass plant an expression cassette comprising a promoter operably linked to a ferulic acid esterase encoding polynucleotide and a signal sequence that targets expression of the ferulic acid esterase to the endoplasmic reticulum, vacuole, apoplast or golgi apparatus.

75. [New]: A transgenic forage plant comprising an expression cassette including an inducible or tissue specific plant promoter operably linked to an *Aspergillus niger* ferulic acid esterase encoding polynucleotide wherein the transgenic plant expresses the ferulic acid esterase having ferulic acid esterase activity and wherein said transgenic plant is selected from the genera consisting of Festuca, Lolium, Sorghum, Zea, Triticum, Avena, and Poa.

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76. [New]: The transgenic forage plant of claim 75, wherein the ferulic acid esterase is FAE1.

77. [New]: The transgenic plant of claim 75, wherein said plant is a Festuca plant.

78. [New]: The transgenic plant of claim 75, wherein said plant is a Lolium plant.

79. [New]: The transgenic plant of claim 75 further comprising an exogenous xylanase gene.